



LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Henry J. Mroz Administration Office
155 Merrimack Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Erik Gitschier
Mayor and Chairperson

David Conway
Vice-Chairperson

Fred Bahou
Eileen Delrossi
Dominik Lay
Connie A. Martin
Danielle McFadden

Safety Subcommittee Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, 2026
Central Administration Building
TV Studio - 5th Floor
6:00 p.m.

Tel: (978) 674-4324
Fax: (978) 937-7609

Subcommittee Members Present:

Chairperson Martin and Mr. Lay. Ms. Delrossi was absent.

School Department Personnel Present:

Ms. Crocker-Roberge, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Hall, Assistant Superintendent
Ms. Breault-Guibicki, Safety Coordinator

Chairperson Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The following agenda items were discussed:

- 1) [Motion by Dave Conway]: Request the Superintendent develop an RFP and identify an outside school security company, (Subject Matter Experts), for the purpose of conducting a total safety and security assessment of the Lowell Public School System.
- 2) [Motion by Eileen Delrossi]: Request the superintendent create a focus group involving Lowell Police, safety coordinator, assistant superintendents, representatives from all bus transportation companies, and parents to develop a clear timeline of September 3 events to improve overall communication and safety procedures in emergency/lockdown situations during arrival and dismissal times.

Ms. Martin opened the meeting and asked Ms. Crocker-Roberge to begin with Agenda Item #1.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge introduced Ms. Breault-Guibicki, Safety Coordinator, who presented a PowerPoint presentation outlining the work of the District-Wide Safety Committee and recent safety initiatives across the district.

Ms. Breault-Guibicki explained that the District-Wide Safety Committee is comprised of representatives from Safety, Information Technology (IT), and Facilities. The committee held its first meeting on October 29, 2025, and meets monthly throughout the year. The committee includes representation from the Lowell Police Department (LPD), Lowell Fire Department (LFD), Emergency Operations Center (EOC), school administrators, Health Department, Student Support Services, McKinney-Vento, Safety, IT, and Facilities. In addition, the committee meets weekly on Wednesdays with Facilities staff and collaborates with Management Information Systems (MIS) on safety-related projects throughout the district.

She discussed the committee's purpose and mission, which are to foster equitable and inclusive learning environments throughout the district while engaging families in promoting student belonging and social-emotional well-being. The Safety Committee's primary purpose is to create and maintain a physically and emotionally safe environment for all students, staff, and families by identifying safety concerns, implementing preventative measures, and promoting awareness of safety practices.

Ms. Breault-Guibicki reviewed several of the committee's highlights and accomplishments, including:

- Conducting school safety audits twice each year.
- Implementing ALICE emergency response drills and training for all staff.
- Working with Lowell Public Schools (LPS) to identify and confirm Rally and Reunification Sites.
- Collaborating with LPD and LFD to establish emergency evacuation routes for each school.
- Providing Go Bags and emergency flip charts in all schools.
- Implementing window numbering throughout the district.
- Establishing universal emergency language and threat assessment protocols and training.

Ms. Breault-Guibicki concluded her presentation by discussing enhanced safety planning and the potential use of portable weapon detection units. Based on a quote received the previous year, the estimated cost was approximately \$40,196.50 for two units and \$59,759.80 for three units. That cost could change this year.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge stated that she had made two visits to Lawrence High School with administrators, LPD representatives, security personnel, and the Safety Coordinator to observe the portable weapon detection units and discuss the implementation and rollout process. The group also discussed how the Lawrence community, staff, and students were notified about the implementation. She explained that, if Lowell were to move forward with the technology, the district would initially conduct a trial with a small group of students and staff. These units would also be available to be used at night for school sponsored events.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge also provided an update on additional safety measures recently implemented by the district. These included the purchase of additional security cameras and two-way radios. She noted that LPS staff members have been CPR trained and certified and are able to provide training to additional staff. The district has also purchased additional LifeVac anti-choking devices for use in schools.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge noted that the safety budget is not as large as it was last year and stated that the district may need to begin with two portable weapon detection units.

Mr. Lay asked whether school nurses had received CPR training. Ms. Breault-Guibicki responded affirmatively.

Mr. Lay then asked about the district's current protocol for responding to intruders. Ms. Breault-Guibicki explained that all exterior doors are secured and are not permitted to be propped open. She stated that School Resource Officers (SROs) conduct daily perimeter checks of all exterior doors to ensure that they remain secure.

Ms. Martin expressed concern that implementing weapon detection technology may be a significant step without additional information regarding the need for it. She requested that the Committee receive data related to school safety and incidents involving weapons at the next School Committee meeting to assist members in evaluating the proposal.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge clarified that the consideration of portable weapon detection units was not prompted by any specific incident and that the initiative is being pursued as a proactive safety measure. She stated that this technology has become a new standard and baseline for enhancing the safety of students and staff. She offered to provide the requested data and noted that several school districts currently using weapon detection units have reported a significant decrease in safety-related incidents.

Chairperson Martin moved to present this to the whole Committee and to accept this as a report of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Lay. The motion passed with 2 yeas, 1 absent (Ms. Delrossi).

Ms. Crocker-Roberge then addressed agenda item #2. She explained that the district's standard practice is to conduct a comprehensive debrief following major events, reviewing all parts of the response and identified areas for improvement. She stated that, based on the findings from the debrief, changes were made to the district's procedures and subsequently implemented during another major event that happened in the city.

Mr. Lay moved to adjourn at 6:41 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Chairperson Martin. The motion passed with 2 yeas, 1 absent Ms. Delrossi).

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Crocker-Roberge, Assistant
Superintendent for School Leadership
for Liam Skinner, Superintendent

WCR/mes